

Mojave-Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 6, 2017
Elko Convention Center, Silver Room, 700 Moren Way, Elko, Nevada

Resource Advisory Council members present and category represented:

Susan Agee Grazing/Ranching Category 1
Douglas Baker Transportation/Rights-of-Way Category 1
Daryl Folks Permitted Recreation Category 1
Annette George Native American Category 3
Jason Higgins (RAC Chair) Energy/Mineral Development Category 1
John Hiatt Environment Category 2
Tara Kilpatrick Wild Horse and Burro Category 2
George Phillips Archaeology/Historic Category 2
Elise McAllister Dispersed Recreation Category 2

Resource Advisory Council members absent and category represented:

Stephanie Garcia-Vause (RAC vice-Chair) Transportation/Rights-of-Way Category 1
John Lee Elected Official Category 3
Paul Matthews Public at Large Category 3
Stanley Smith Academic/UNLV Category 3
John Zablocki Environment/Wildlife Category 2

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) representatives present:

Kirsten Cannon BLM Southern Nevada District, Public Affairs Specialist
Tim Coward BLM Tonopah Field Manager
Mike Herder BLM Ely District, District Manager
Tim Smith BLM Southern Nevada District, District Manager

Public:

None

FY 2017 Meetings

Discussion clarified focus of full Mojave-Southern Resource Advisory Council meetings and selected new dates for subcommittee meetings to meet 30-day Federal Register Notice meeting notice requirement.

The following date/times/location and topic were agreed upon:

June 22

Room 107 at Great Basin College, 2115 Bobcat Drive, Ely, NV 893101

11 - 11:30 a.m. - Standards and Guides Subcommittee – refine language
11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. – Planning Subcommittee – topics TBD

April 6, 2017
MOSO RAC Meeting

1 – 5 p.m. Mojave Southern Resource Advisory Council – Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area recreation fee business plan, RMP update, committee reports, field trip to fuel reduction/sage grouse, wild horse viewing and Basin and Range National Monument tour June 23, District manager reports, public comment

June 23

La Quinta meeting room, 1591 Great Basin Blvd, Ely, NV 89301

7 - 8:30 a.m. - Recreation Subcommittee

8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. – tour to include Patterson Pass area to see wild horses and springs, Cave Valley to see fuels reduction and sage grouse habitat treatments and White River Narrows to see rock art

August 8

City of Henderson City Hall, Midway Conference Room, 240 Water Street, Henderson, NV 89015

1:30 – 3:15 p.m. – Planning Subcommittee - Utility corridors/transmission, update on the Las Vegas Valley Environmental Assessment, E-planning updates & demonstration, Resource Management Plan/ Resource Management Plan supplemental updates, renewable energy, public comment

3:30 – 5 p.m. - Recreation Subcommittee - update on Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area recreation fee business plan, RAC presence at Get Outdoors NV, BLM booth and/or RAC brochure, permit issue—explanation of need, permitting process, define recommendations to make to RAC and define draft goals for 2018, public comment

August 15

Alamo Annex, 121 Joshua Tree Street, Alamo, NV

6 – 8 p.m. - Basin and Range National Monument Subcommittee - discussion: Summary of Envisioning and Scoping Comments and Summaries re: Livestock Grazing, public comment.

September 27

Tonopah Convention Center, 301 Brougner Ave, Tonopah, NV 89049

12 – 1 p.m. – Recreation Subcommittee – topics TBD

1 – 5 p.m. - Mojave Southern Resource Advisory Council – lithium mining, Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area recreation fee business plan, RMP update, committee reports, District Manager reports, public comment

September 28

meet at Tonopah Convention Center, 301 Brougner Ave, Tonopah, NV 89049

8 a.m. – 2 p.m. – tour to include Tonopah Mining Park and see Crescent Dunes solar from distance, lithium mine in Silver Peak and Gold Point

April 6, 2017
MOSO RAC Meeting

Selection of RAC members

After discussion about RAC approval timeline, Susan requested that members not selected be notified by letter and BLM will implement.

Tri-RAC Fall Meeting Proposal

After discussion, the RAC decided to recommend hosting a meeting in January (as opposed to the November proposal) and have it in Las Vegas. They also recommended including a field trip. If Tri-RAC meeting is not held in January, MOSO will hold their meeting in January.

Quorum Proposal

After discussion, the RAC decided to recommend a two in each category plus one as definition as a quorum and would like to revisit definition each year.

Sierra Front RAC Riparian Letter

After discussion, the RAC decided to forward the following edits: reduce content to two pages; incorporate proper functioning condition; add information about how spring protection will also benefit endemic species; change “should” to “must” in regard to water rights; include State Water Engineer; and add effects of groundwater withdrawal on springs to RMPs. The RAC would like to review the finalized version of the letter before signing.

BLM Website Redesign

The following recommendations to the redesigned website and process were made:

- Provide a “how organized” page
- Keep information up-to-date i.e. “What’s New” should not be three year-old information
- It needs to actually be up more often, it’s not available far too much
- It’s not user friendly
- Local information needs to be highlighted
- Make maps easier to find
- Why didn’t we know this redesign was happening before it launched?
- Use a group of non-employees to assist with how to navigate and what information to include
- It’s too much like Facebook, we need substance and local information
- There is a frustration with functionality and you only have less than one minute to give enough information to keep people on your site
- Why didn’t BLM follow a scoping type process to solicit feedback before the site launched?
- It must be simplified i.e. maps and ePlanning
- Needs to focus on levels of use. Redesign meets those looking for pretty photos but not those we look for usable information at state and local level
- Can’t find MTPs but combination of other mapping elements is more than before

- How many times can we tell you, you need to communicate more? This redesign is a great example.

General discussion

Topics included the importance of public/private partnerships and relationships building/trust between BLM and the public. RAC suggested focus on meeting stakeholders during times of leadership transition in addition to staffs of local, state and national elected officials; using employees and RAC members as ambassadors as ways to bring BLM closer to the public.

Approved by:

Jason Higgins, Chair
Mojave-Southern Great Basin RAC

Date